AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The signaling channel module 120 also comprises the central connection point for intra-node communication between node element modules 112, 114, 116, the administrative node processor module 106 and the persistent storage module 104. Additionally, the signaling channel module 120 controls ~~120~~ the transfer of information, including administrative information at this node 100, between the illustrated node 100 and other nodes of the network over an optical signaling channel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The optical signaling channel travels a path including one or more optical transmission media between the nodes. The optical signaling channel may be embodied in several different ways. In one embodiment, the optical signaling channel is embodied as one or more dedicated wavelengths carrying administrative information wherein the one or more dedicated wavelengths travel on optical fiber coupling the nodes of the network. Each dedicated wavelength is de-multiplexed (not shown) and received by the optical receiver of

the signaling channel module 120. In one example, the signaling channel is a wavelength channel outside of the band of wavelengths on which payload data communications are carried. For example in an optical dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) system in which the payload communications are carried in wavelengths in a typical pass-band of approximately 1530nm and 1560nm, the optical signaling channel may be carried on a wavelength of 1510nm. A wavelength of either 1310nm or 1480nm may also be used. In another example, the optical signaling channel may be a dedicated wavelength within the pass-band of the payload wavelengths.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Referring now to Figure 9, the preferred method for real-time updating of the channel map will be described. One of the key advantages of the channel map of the present invention is that it provides information necessary to provision and manage the network in a single display. The present invention also provides for automatic refresh of the information based on content changes. The channel map refreshes when the content changes to always show the up to date information. A new add-drop addition for instance would be reflected automatically in the channel map view without the user having to close and reopen the channel map. A preferred method for performing this

automatic updating is shown in Figure 9. The method begins in step 902 by monitoring for external event. In the preferred embodiment, there are a number of different events that may cause the channel map to be updated. For example, an alarm condition, change in administrative condition or other information being sent from the administrative complex 102 to the element management system 402 is one such event. Another event is user input requesting that the channel map be updated. Yet another event is the passage of time. The present invention provides a default time after which the channel map is updated. The user preferably sets this default time so that the channel map might be updated every 3 minutes, for example. During the monitoring state, the method determines 904 if the event or communication from the administrative complex requires a channel map update. This is determined by an alarm condition, a change to a channel or band provision, and change in administrative state. If such an event is detected the method proceeds to step 910 to update the channel map as has been described in Figure 7A. Otherwise, the method continues to step 906 to test whether the user has input a request for a channel map update. If so, the method proceeds to step 910 to update the channel map, otherwise the method continues to step 908. In step 908, the method determines if the default time has elapsed since the last channel map update. If so, the method continues in step 910 to perform a channel map update after which the method returns to monitor for changes in step 902.

Otherwise, if the default time has not elapsed, the method proceeds directly to step 902 to continue monitoring. As illustrated, the method repeatedly performs step 904, 906 and 908 to monitor whether the channel map should be updated.